

# The Coffee Farmer

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National Union of Coffee  
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(The Coffee Farmers Association of Uganda)

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## BANANA JUICE PROJECT FOR COFFEE FARMERS



NUCAFE Business managers, Chairpersons and group leaders on a guided tour by the Operations Manager - Jakana Foods., at Jakana Foods Factory. Center forward is the Juice extractor and blending drum.

By Rashida Nakabuga.

Coffee farmers from Central, Western and Southern regions of Uganda are set to benefit from becoming suppliers of raw brew bananas and also hold shares in the banana processing company called Jakana foods limited. UN-Habitat in conjunction with UCDA and NUCAFE are implementing a project on increased farm incomes from banana- based beverages in Lake Victoria basin.

The project is aimed at piloting participation of small scale farmers in the banana and other fruit based beverages market to diversify their incomes from coffee-banana enterprises in a bid to eradicate poverty.

Work has currently started in the districts of Wakiso, Luwero, Nakaseke, Bushenyi, Mpigi, Mukono, Masaka, Rakai and Ssemabule. This project dubbed banana juice extraction project is business oriented, with a unique aspect of involving producers (suppliers of raw materials) as share holders in the business. A total of 525 people (387 male and 138 female) from registered associations were met representing 8.1 percent of their entire

membership of 6,475 individual members, farmers were informed that the processing plant is stationed in Kampala but there will be brew field services near to their villages.

Farmers called for more sensitizations and trainings on good agricultural practices and on how this project will be working in their communities citing a problem of poor farm management by most of farmers visited. The principle development officer of Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) Apollo Kamugisha assured farmers that if they work in groups and as a unity they are set to reap big from this project, he says that on addition to the local market of selling bananas to the waragi brewers, the market is to expand to selling to jacana.

"Farmers are going to be exposed to marketing their bananas to the level of regional and international markets, Uganda is one of the biggest countries producing banana so it is a landmark" he remarked. He pointed out that a bag of banana costs between 2000-25000 shillings, estimating 3000 shillings per bunch of banana; this raises hopes of farmers that as more juice is marketed, the price of their bananas will be increasing soon. Kamugisha noted that

## ABOUT NUCAFE

### NUCAFE's Vision:

- Coffee Farmers profitably own their coffee along the value chain.

### NUCAFE's Mission:

- To establish a sustainable farmer owned and operated organization for the

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With technical support of Trias



## BANANA PRODUCTION FOR COFFEE FARMERS...

soon Jacana is to install a high capacity equipment to process a lot of juice in a day and this will increase on farmers' sales.

At NUCAFE the Production and Marketing Manager, David Muwonge called on farmers to be actively engaged in this project saying it will be an alternative income for the farmers. "Farmers will have a source from where to earn as they wait for coffee to mature, value addition will be realized more so that farmers earn more money from the coffee and the quality will continually

**.....Jacana is to install a high capacity equipment to process a capacity of 5000litres per hour.....**

improve because bananas will be providing shade" he said. He encouraged farmers to take up the opportunity of holding shares in Jacana foods limited and all farmers in the districts around Lake Victoria basin are the beneficiaries.

Farmers were called upon to plant more brew bananas and practice good agricultural practices to earn more income and improve their livelihoods. However farmers pointed out some of the challenges that they anticipate and cautioned the project implementers to take great care if the project is to succeed; to mention they said that disease was an impediment and advised that a boost in research would be a plus so that farmers are supplied with banana resistant varieties. With excitement they cautioned that the banana project should not be like some of the projects introduced in their communities and have failed after them incurring losses.

## THE FATHER OF CLONAL COFFEE DEAD



**Honorable  
Dr. Israel  
Kibirige  
Ssebunya.  
STATE Minister  
for Agriculture,**

THE STATE Minister for Agriculture, Dr. Israel Kibirige Ssebunya, is dead. Kibirige, who had been battling tongue cancer for months, died yesterday at 7:15am at Mulago Hospital.

The popular minister got critically ill four months ago and was admitted to hospitals in South Africa and Germany. Ssebunya's relatives yesterday said his tongue started swelling on Tuesday evening and his throat got blocked. He could no longer eat and was being fed through tubes. Tongue cancer affects the mouth and oropharynx, the part of the throat behind the mouth. The death of the humorous minister, at the age of 62, has robbed Uganda of a great scientist, a plant breeder renowned for his research.

PRESIDENT Yoweri Museveni yesterday scoffed at unpatriotic politicians who only stay in Uganda during "fair-weather" times. Addressing mourners at the burial of former agriculture minister Kibirige Ssebunya in Katente village, Mukono district, Museveni hailed him as a patriot who stayed in Uganda during turbulent times and continued to carry out research. He recalled that in 1986, when the NRM took power, he was looking for scientists to carry out research.

"All officers at Kawanda Agricultural Research Station had fled for greener pastures. I found there this man who told me that despite the problems that had befallen Uganda, research at Kawanda was going on," the President said. "I kept remem-

bering this scientist who had stuck with Uganda. He was no fair-weather Ugandan who is only here when things are alright. Ssebunya was not seasonal."

The burial was also attended by the First Lady, Mrs. Janet Museveni, Vice-President Dr. Gilbert Bukenya, Prime Minister Apolo Nsibambi, Speaker Edward Ssekandi, the Speaker of Buganda and an array of ministers, MPs and NRM officials, including the vice-chairmen for north and east, Moses Ali and Mike Mukula respectively. Museveni said he kept Ssebunya in the agriculture portfolio for 12 years because he had a lot of confidence and respect in him.

"Some Ugandans are not able to see the core issues. What I saw in Kibirige was a patriot and a very good scientist. I couldn't change him. I only change when there is a reason." Ssebunya's shortcomings, the President added, were trivial issues that were not of his concern as long as he loved his country and was a good scientist. Museveni said Sse-

**.....this man who told me that despite the problems that had befallen Uganda, research at Kawanda was going on....**

bunya also helped the Movement liberate Kyadondo North constituency because "all sorts of people were playing in it and confusing the people".

Prime Minister Apolo Nsibambi has commended former agriculture minister Kibirige Ssebunya for his excep-

## KIBIRIGE SSEBUNYA WAS A PATRIOT - MUSEVENI...

tional research and development initiatives. Speaking during a funeral service at the packed Namirembe Cathedral yesterday, Nsibambi said Kibirige would be remembered for discovering clonal coffee, introducing palm oil cultivation on Ssesse Islands, and having led the research team that produced mosaic-resistant cassava varieties. "The clonal coffee he initiated is a high-yielding variety which has earned Ugandans foreign exchange and homestead incomes. The cassava improved the capacity of Ugandans to increase their food security," Nsibambi, who spoke on behalf of the Government, pointed out.

He hailed Ssebunya for demystifying the perception that highly educated people cannot make good political leaders. "Although he was a staunch NRM supporter, Kibirige did not discriminate against people of other political parties. Indeed, in being gregarious, he shared local brew with ordinary people." The Prime Minister called the deceased a humble and accessible man. "He rejected constructing a fence and a gate at his residence in order to enable members of his constituency access him readily.

He also rejected being guarded by Police men, arguing that he did not wish to be protected against the peo-



Museveni, accompanied by his wife, lays a wreath on the casket bearing Kibirige's body

ple who loved him dearly." The Kabaka (king) of Buganda, Ronald Mutebi, hailed Kibirige for having demonstrated that a Muganda politician can serve the central Government and remain committed to his kingdom. "Kibirige has been our great friend. He has been very helpful to us, especially on matters concerning the kingdom's agricultural programmes," the Kabaka said in a speech read by Edward Lutaya Mukomazi, the kingdom's agriculture minister.

MEMBERS of Parliament yesterday paid tribute to the late agriculture state minister, Kibirige Ssebunya, at a special session in Parliament. All the 30 MPs who spoke hailed the fallen minister as a brilliant scientist, a humble politician, a dedicated NRM legislator and a humorous

person. Kibirige, the Kyadondo North MP, died of cancer on October 8 at Mulago Hospital after a three-month illness where he was in and out of foreign hospitals.

Hundreds of mourners yesterday thronged the Parliament foyer, where Kibirige lay in state, to pay tribute. Among the mourners was Libyan ambassador Abdallah Bujeldain, former premier

Kintu Musoke, Uganda Land Commission Chairman Mayanja Nkangi and Electoral Commission boss Badru Kiggundu. The body, which was in an aluminium casket draped in national colours, was carried by six Police pall-bearers as the Police band played the dirges. "Last time we adjourned, we hoped to resume

**....hailed Ssebunya for demystifying the perception that highly educated people cannot make good political leaders....**

in joy. We reconvene today in tears because of the great loss of our colleague. We are here to pay tribute to him and give him a decent sendoff," the Speaker said as he opened the session

Agriculture minister Hillary Onek described Ssebunya as a scientist who had done a lot to develop agriculture in Uganda.

DURING the burial of a village elder as told by Chinua Achebe in his best

### COMING TO YOU SOON IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:

*The challenge of getting certified, the tough road, sacrifices involved in getting certified....*

*Contracts in the coffee industry; what to consider in terms of quality, shipping, mode of delivery, terms of payment and using intermediaries....*

*Experiences of Business Managers in the past coffee year, their view of challenges and Successes achieved....*

*More coffee prices, And so much more....*

**Current coffee prices:**

**Robusta Kiboko**

1000 - 1300 UgX

**Robusta F.A.Q**

2200- 2300 UgX

**Arabica:**

2000 - 2500 UgX

## PARLIAMENT MOURNS HONOURABLE KIBIRIGE SSEBUNYA...

seller, *Things Fall Apart*, orator after orator came out and shouted their eulogies. Certainly, such a scenario would befit the late Dr. Israel Kibirige Ssebunya. "If you were dull, I would ask the gods to make you active in death, but you were active," one of the orators would say. Others would say: "If you were uneducated, I would ask the gods to give you education in death, but you had six degrees in your bed. "If you did not enjoy your life, I would ask the gods to make you enjoy it in death, but you enjoyed yours to the full. "If you were not inventive in life, I would ask the gods to make you inventive in death, but you were inventive."

**...62 years of life,  
Kibirige has seen it all,  
done it all and lived it all.  
Nobody combined  
inventiveness,  
seriousness and comedy  
like he did...**

Throughout his 62 years of life, Kibirige has seen it all, done it all and lived it all. Nobody combined inventiveness, seriousness and comedy like he did. He had a character one would find difficult to hate. He was productive and creative, especially in his field as a plant breeder. He mixed with everybody, the poor, the rich, the old, men, women and children, but even then, captured the eyes and ears of the powerful, including President Yoweri Museveni, who appointed him one of his ministers.

By any standards, Kibirige was a humorous man, who sometimes leaned towards a comic. He amused all and sundry in the process, making some



Museveni, accompanied by his wife, lays a wreath on the casket bearing Kibirige's body

of the most memorable quotes in Ugandan history. He was a hands-on person, always willing to dig deep into the soil if that would add value to the lives of farmers across the country. And yet, on many occasions, he was misunderstood for being careless.

For over 30 years, Kibirige was doing what he liked best, making new discoveries in the agriculture field. Between 1970 and 1996, he was a plant scientist in various research institutions across the country. It was during this period that he made some of the most elaborate inventions of all time. He discovered clonal coffee. The discovery came at a time when traditional coffee was being destroyed by the coffee wilt disease. It was because of this discovery that he was named chairperson of the Uganda coffee Development Authority in 1992, a position he held up to 1996.

Kawanda's senior principal research officer, Dr. Matthias Magunda, said Ssebunya will also be remembered for his contribution to palm oil growing in Kituuzza. Magunda called Ssebunya one of the best and first well-trained breeders in the country. "He supported several scientists and was

very social," he said.

"Though a comic person, he was very clever and he often scoffed at lazy people as a way to entice them into engaging in development ventures," commented Buganda

Katikkiro (premier) JB Walusimbi. He added that Ssebunya was a true Muganda, a friend of the Kabaka and one of the founding board members of the Buganda Cultural and Development Foundation.

Chebet Maikut, the vice-president of the Eastern Africa Farmers' Federation, said Ssebunya was a great friend of farmers, whom he encouraged to adopt modern technologies. "He went an extra mile to support development programmes aimed at enhancing income generation, especially among the rural people."

George Ssenabulya, the retired bishop of West Buganda, who led the service, hailed Kibirige for having been a man of wisdom and encouragement.

NRM secretary general Amama Mbabazi described Kibirige as hardworking and exemplary in NRM. "He did not entertain nonsense, even in the party."

**.... a comic person, he was  
very clever and he often  
scoffed at lazy people as a  
way to entice them ...**

# FARMER OWNERSHIP THE FUTURE OF UGANDA'S

By: Buule Ronald S. K

Director for Youth NUCAFE BOARD

Uganda is agricultural based and coffee is the back-bone of its economy, about 5million people are engaged in coffee production and other associated businesses. Since the coffee sub-sector is fully liberalized, and any one is free to engage in any activity within the coffee value chain, farmers are advised to form organizations (coffee farmers' organizations) in order to achieve the best.

Employing good agricultural practices (GAPS) i.e. planting high yielding varieties, carrying out good field husbandry to improve productivity in coffee farming systems, leads to a boost of incomes of the coffee farmers.

This is a reality; It has started working in some areas in this country like Masaka with associations for stance Kabonera Coffee farmers Association and Kibinge Coffee Farmers Association, whose chairpersons are Mr. Gaanya Francis and Mr. Kibonde Davis respectively, In Mpigi and Wakiso are Buwama Coffee Farmers Association and Nsangi Coffee Farmers Association with Ssalongo Muligi Ntambi Em-

**...the importance of the farmers ownership model, putting an end to selling flowers...**

manuel and Mr. Buule Ronald S. K as their chairpersons, so many other groups have been trained in Wakiso District e.g. Sentama Organic Coffee Farmers.



**Inset: Hon. Prime Minister Appollo Nsibambi talking to press about the pressing need of having a National Coffee Policy, to sustain the Coffee Industry after officiating the opening of the Convention, to protect quality coffee producers and small scale local investors who promote domestic coffee consumption.**

Having formed a coffee farmers' organization and fully registered, members are now reaping big from coffee; coffee being one of the major cash crops in Uganda, both in terms of foreign exchange earnings and employment creation. Coffee as a main source of income has continued to play a big role in the economy of Uganda.

The coffee industry employs about 1.2 million house holds at production level and over 5million in the overall value chain. For the well organized farmers who have formed organizations under the NUCAFE umbrella have also recognized the importance of the farmers ownership model, putting an end to sell flowers, unripe coffee and Kiboko.

Farmers have now embraced the importance of adding value to the coffee they sell, they sell Fair Average Quality (FAQ), graded coffee after comparing

the difference in prices, so many farmers have decided to form organizations and many youth have become coffee farmers or having a coffee farming business which is vital to this country. However, there is still a very big challenge in this country to encourage the youth to engage in coffee farming in order to build the coffee industry.

Farmers who are not organized in associations, have continued to be exploited by middle men, because our target as coffee farmers in the association is to have one voice as coffee farmers, to share ideas, acquire modern farming technologies in the coffee farming business, and also eliminate the middle who comes with a cup and small weighing scales with purely a business heart and not caring about the future of coffee and farmers.

Government programs like the "Bona Bagagawale" aimed at eradicating poverty will only benefit those farmers who

## FARMER OWNERSHIP

are organized (in a group). Ensuring sustainability of a farmer's commodity there is need to embrace and know the Farmers Ownership Model (*for more information about this, A Comprehensive book is available at NUCAFE offices where you can get yourself a copy*).

Farmers should take caution that it is difficult to overcome poverty when they are still selling flowers, red cherries or kiboko. We all need to change to modern ways of farming and market value added coffee and for starters it is better to get used to selling FAQ to get higher prices and better money in the farmers' pockets.

This will automatically push or force the farmers' mind to change and increase on production to make sure s/he doubles his or her income. If farmers accept and believe in the farmers ownership model, will be able to succeed in that.

One is responsible for his actions like quality improvement, possession of but not a custodian, belonging to one voice for, care and inter dependence for one another, in charge of structures, policies and pro-

**...women, actively participate in the nursery activities and coffee business as this will boost family incomes ...**

grammes, has a say on several enterprises like coffee.

Being able to negotiate for higher prices, farmers should have the quality and quantity coffee, farmers have the capacity to access technologies and should have access to market information, all these are under the farmer ownership model. This will work better if the farmers are organized and work together. I kindly request and encourage farmers to take to coffee and also embrace the farmer ownership model as their own.

## NUCAFE HAS BEST COFFEE SEEDLINGS



A female member of Buwama Coffee Farmers Association inserting cuttings from selected CWD tolerant Clonal Coffee Varieties for re and planting.

By Rashida Nakabuga

Half a million of coffee seedlings to be produced this year by NUCAFE in the nurseries that have been strategically established in the central and western Uganda for coffee farmers to get access to better seedlings. With support from

DANIDA ASPs II, these nurseries have been established to scale up the multiplication of coffee plantlets for increased coffee production to enhance farmers' livelihoods.

These nurseries also act as demonstration sites for learning purpose of coffee seedlings handling, maintenance of coffee plantlets

and cuttings, currently nurseries have been established in the districts of Masaka, Rakai, Mpigi and Bushenyi.

Farmers hope to be availed with coffee seedlings that are resistant to the wilt disease will soon be a reality, "A total of 35 plants from seven (7) of the 8 wilt resistant varieties have been planted at the nursery site in Bunjako Island Coffee Farmers' Association and will be used for other mother garden planting when ready and with advice from COREC" quoted the Production and Marketing Manager NUCAFE, David Mu-

wonge. He said that these varieties will strengthen farmer ownership in access to good planting material, added that NUCAFE is looking at raising on the production of the two types of coffees, Robusta and Arabica to ensure sustainable production of these seedlings.

Muwonge said that the nursery operators were trained, taken to field visits to view already performing nurseries and good results are expected from the nurseries, cautioned that these entities are business oriented and looking at raising money to boost on the associations development and NUCAFE at large. He called upon women to actively participate in the nursery activities and coffee business as this will boost family incomes if a heart of working as a family is developed involving Men, Women, Girls and boys.

The establishment of the Nursery sites is at, in Mpigi its run by Bunjako Island Coffee Farmers Association, and in Rakai it's co-owned and managed by Kagamba Coffee Farmers Association, Dwaniro Coffee Farmers Association and Lwamaggwa Coffee Farmers Association. In Masaka its Buwunga Farmers Association and in Bushenyi, Kangango Farmers Association.

## PROJECT TO INCREASE COFFEE FARMERS' INCOME IN THE OFFING

BY: Michael J Ssali

A project to diversify and increase banana farmers' income is in the offing. A new market for raw brew bananas and other fruits has been identified and farmers now face the challenge to supply the items in the required quality and quantities. UN-Habitat is coordinating the implementation of the project, also referred to as "Pilot Project on Increased Farm Incomes from Banana-Based Beverages in Lake Victoria Basin". Two experts have completed the initial part of the assignment to mobilize and sensitize coffee and banana farmers in the country about the prospects of up-grading of the banana/fruit processing plant at Kawempe in Kampala to be known as Jakana Foods Limited Factory. The Up graded factory will have a capacity of producing 5000 litres of banana juice per hour and as it grows to operate 24 hours a day over time it will produce 120,000 litres of juice with a shelf life of over one year using the state of the art technology. The Banana juice produced will meet international standards and already potential buyers in the international market, regional and



**A Banana - Coffee farming system, has proved to be better in sustaining farmer livelihoods. A Farmer in**

**Kagango C.F.A mulching a coffee banana intercrop.(Inset) High yielding banana clones, being germinated on agar medium, this process leads high seed rate in multiplication.**

consumed in Uganda most especially in Buganda and south western Uganda, however the method of extraction was not efficient, was some times looked at as un-hygienic and the shelf life was no more than two days with local preservation methods (boiling). However with studies done over years at the old Jakana Foods factory that was started by Dan Jakana, the technology has been developed to for more efficient extraction and longer shelf life.

In response to this and as the project implementing agency, UN-Habitat used the services of Mr. David Muwonge, Production and Marketing Manager at NUCAFE, (National Coffee Union of Coffee Agribusiness and Farm Enterprises) and Mr. Apollo Kamugisha, Principal Development Officer at UCDA (Uganda Coffee Development Authority) who have been to various parts of western, central, and south-western Uganda holding meetings with farmers groups as well as individual farmers about the project.

It is a unique project in that it brings the farmers on board not only as suppliers of the raw brew bananas (locally known as mbidde in Luganda) but also as shareholder partners in the

new company, Jakana Foods Limited. The project enjoys the financial support of the Common Fund for Commodities, UN-Habitat, FAO, UNIDO and the Uganda Government. Other supporting institutions are UCDA and NU-CAFE.

According to their report, dated January 5 2009, Muwonge and Kamugisha discussed a number of issues during the meetings with farmers including the project background, rationale, and opportunities provided by the upgraded banana juice extraction, processing and market potential. They further discussed the share holding concept within the new company and strategies for banana collection and delivery arrangements. They looked into the availability of brew bananas, their production rate and the possibility for expansion. They listened to the farmers' woes concerning banana diseases and pests and they also took time to assess the farmers' keenness to participate as suppliers of raw materials and partners in the new company. They even made a start on the registration and recruitment of members into the new company. They met a total of 525 people from organized and registered farmers associations, 138 of whom were women.

**... a unique project in that it brings the farmers on board not only as suppliers of the raw brew bananas (locally known as mbidde in Luganda) but also as shareholder partners ...**

local markets have expressed interest.

Over the years banana juice has been

**We are on the web:**

**WWW.NUCAFE.ORG**

[www.ugandacoffee.org/stakeholders/farmers](http://www.ugandacoffee.org/stakeholders/farmers)

**NATIONAL UNION OF COFFEE  
AGRIBUSINESS AND FARM  
ENTERPRISES (NUCAFE)**

Plot 32 Jinja Rd

Suite 2.7 Second Floor

Coffee House

P. O. Box 34967 Kampala (NUCAFE)

Phone: +256-41-236199

Mobile: +256-772-595030

Fax: +256-41-345252

E-mail: [nucafe@nucafe.org](mailto:nucafe@nucafe.org)

E-mail: [nucafe@africaonline.co.ug](mailto:nucafe@africaonline.co.ug)

E-mail: [info@nucafe.org](mailto:info@nucafe.org)



**NUCAFE**

**Coffee Farmers profitably own  
their coffee along the value chain  
for sustainable livelihoods.**

Uganda is rated the most important banana producer on the globe after India. The banana wilt and other diseases have certainly made their impact and reduced production in the recent years but the current annual banana production potential for Uganda is estimated at over 8 million metric tones. A total of 4,729,063 crop plots are devoted to banana growing of which 997039 are under brew banana production (UBOS 2007). During a recent international banana conference in Mombasa, Kenya,

([www.banana2008.com](http://www.banana2008.com)) Mr. Sidi Sanyang of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) pointed out that with better marketing strategies Uganda could greatly benefit from the sale of value added banana products such as beer, banana chips, banana juice, fried snacks, banana flour, fibre, and other consumer goods. So the idea of opening up Jacana Foods Ltd is no doubt one of



Coffee that is grown under shade, provides a better cup tastes, bigger screen size and if the shade is banana this to provides an extra income to the farm for sustainability.

## **BANANA FARMING FOR COFFEE FARMERS...**

the best strategies for improving farmers' incomes in this region.

Increased income from bananas for the farmers has a bearing on the long term objectives of both

**... such supplementary  
crops they will be in a  
better position to wait and  
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the right time and when  
the best price...**

UCDA and NUCAFE, which centre on production of better quality coffee, raising income for coffee farmers, and generally uplifting their living standards. It is reflected in the report that it is the same banana farmers that grow coffee and other fruits such as pineapples and passion fruit. The report further indi-

cates that when coffee farmers earn income from such supplementary crops they will be in a better position to wait and harvest or sell coffee at the right time and when the best prices are offered. Without such 'side income' some coffee farmers have been selling off their coffee at giveaway prices to coffee traders when it is still in the plantation, and before it is ready for harvesting. The farmer has often ended up the loser. The traders eager to get back their money as quickly as possible in most cases have been known to hurriedly harvest the coffee often before it is actually ripe — thus eroding quality.

A few issues of course will be a challenge to both the farmers and the managers of Jacana Foods Ltd. For example, according to the report, different brew banana varieties are grown in different production zones. There will be need to guide the farmers on sustainable varieties to be planted in each region. There will be need to ensure that the banana juice factory will not be like any other development projects that have began with fanfare and have ended up closing living the farmers disillusioned





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